

# MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**MONTANA FIELD OFFICE**  
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF JANUARY 2021

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** The month of January was windy and dry for the state of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters across the state noted a lack of precipitation and high winds throughout the month of January. Temperatures across the state were higher than the daily historical averages for a majority of the month. High temperatures ranged from the mid-20s to the mid-60s. Low temperatures ranged from the mid-30s to the teens. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, approximately 81 percent of Montana is abnormally dry or in a current state of drought, with about 8 percent of the state in severe or extreme drought. Topsoil moisture conditions were 43 percent adequate to surplus, up slightly from 39 percent in the previous report. Subsoil moisture conditions were 49 percent adequate to surplus, a slight improvement from 45 percent in the previous report. So far, winter freeze and wind damage to winter wheat remains low, but continued high winds and minimal snow cover have depleted conditions this month. Snow coverage for the state is minimal, with no coverage rated good to excellent, 26 percent of the state has poor snow coverage, and 71 percent has very poor coverage. Winter wheat condition is rated 68 percent good to excellent, up minimally from 65 percent in the previous report. Reporters in Judith Basin and Valley counties noted the winter wheat is starting to suffer the consequences of little snow cover and high winds. Pasture and range conditions improved slightly from the last report with 12 percent rated good to excellent. Due to the mild winter conditions, livestock producers are providing supplemental feed at a slightly lower rate than normal, with 92 percent of cattle and calves and 96 percent of sheep and lambs being fed. Weather for calving and lambing has been excellent, with an estimated 1 percent of calving and lambing completed.

**Note:** Monthly reports will be released for February on Monday, February 22, 2021; and for March on Monday, March 29, 2021.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed .....	92	86	96	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambbed.....	1	NA	NA	NA
Receiving supplemental feed .....	96	85	96	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

### SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current report (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short.....	14	15	1	NA
Short.....	43	46	5	NA
Adequate .....	42	39	81	NA
Surplus .....	1	--	13	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	9	13	1	NA
Short.....	42	42	8	NA
Adequate .....	47	45	79	NA
Surplus .....	2	--	12	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current report	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open .....	85	94	67	NA
Difficult .....	9	6	19	NA
Closed.....	6	--	14	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	14	14	3	NA
Poor .....	28	28	12	NA
Fair .....	46	50	40	NA
Good.....	10	8	40	NA
Excellent.....	2	--	5	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	NA
Poor .....	4	4	5	NA
Fair .....	27	30	24	NA
Good.....	62	58	40	NA
Excellent.....	6	7	31	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None .....	64	72	82	NA
Light .....	25	14	13	NA
Moderate.....	9	8	4	NA
Heavy .....	2	6	1	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None .....	86	83	78	NA
Light .....	10	13	17	NA
Moderate.....	3	3	4	NA
Heavy .....	1	1	1	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor.....	71	44	33	NA
Poor .....	26	56	26	NA
Fair .....	3	--	22	NA
Good.....	--	--	17	NA
Excellent.....	--	--	2	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero